

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The reply filed August 5, 2004 was deemed not fully responsive. In particular, it was contended that applicant failed to point out support for the newly presented claim limitation "the transition member having a stiffness less than the first stiffness and the second stiffness." Applicant had directed the examiner to page 7, lines 15-17 and page 7, line 29-page 8, line 1. It is contended that the specification and applicant's arguments are directed to the transition member has a stiffness that is between the stiffness of the intravascular device and the stiffness of the distal shaft portion. It is contended that the amendment to the claims indicates that the transition member has a stiffness that is less than the distal shaft section and less than the stiffness of the distal shaft section at the intravascular device position.

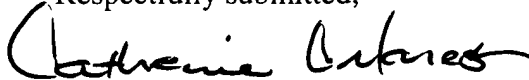
Applicant has amended the specification with language originally filed in claim 1: the distal shaft portion has a first stiffness and then a second stiffness at the position of the stent, or intravascular device, on the shaft. Applicant has also amended the specification by specifying what had been inherent about the stiffness of the catheter portion. More particularly, the specification as filed disclosed that the distal shaft was relatively flexible and that the stent was relatively stiffer (page 7, line 30 and page 8, line 8). Thus, the shaft is stiffer where the stent is positioned than where there is the stiffer stent is not located on the shaft. Thus, claim 1, as amended and supported by the specification, requires the transition member having a stiffness inbetween the distal shaft portion where the stent is located (the second stiffness) and the distal shaft portion where there is no stent (the first stiffness).

For additional clarity, applicant has amended claim 1 to replace section, which had no antecedent basis, with portion, which has antecedent basis. Applicant has also amended claim 1 to specify that the first stiffness is less than the second stiffness.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 543-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine C. Maresh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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